

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for communicating with a device connectable to a network,
2 the method comprising:
3 enabling the device to function as a unique instant messenger client for an
4 instant messenger service; and
5 receiving messages from the device over the network via the instant
6 messenger service;
7 whereby the device, instead of a human user, acts as the instant
8 messenger client.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling of the device to function
2 as an instant messenger client comprises:
3 registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the device;
4 and
5 programming the unique login into the device.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 pre-defining at least one pre-existing user of the instant messenger service
3 with whom the device is allowed to communicate.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 sending messages to the device over the network over the instant messenger
3 service.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the device, and at least
3 one action to be taken by the device upon receiving the message.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the messages received from the device
2 over the network via the instant messenger service are initiated by the device in response to a
3 pre-specified criterion being satisfied.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a webcam.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the webcam initiates sending a
2 message over the network via the instant messenger service when the webcam detects
3 motion.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the device is a home appliance.

1 10. A method for communicating with a device using an instant messenger
2 service, the method comprising:

3 enabling the device to function as an instant messenger client for the instant
4 messenger service;

5 connecting the device to a network;

6 receiving messages from the device over the network over the instant
7 messenger service; and

8 sending messages to the device over the network over the instant messenger
9 service;

10 whereby the device, instead of a human user, acts as the instant
11 messenger client.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the device, and at least
3 one action to be taken by the device upon receiving the message.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the messages received from the
2 device over the network are initiated by the device in response to a pre-specified
3 criterion being satisfied.

1 13. A device enabled to function as a unique instant messenger user over a
2 network, the device comprising:

3 an autonomous IM application module, which identifies the device as a unique
4 instant messenger user to an instant messenger service; and

5 a network interface coupled to the autonomous IM application module, to
6 connect to the network to communicate with at least one other instant messenger user
7 over the instant messenger service;

8 whereby the device, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger
9 client.

1 14. The device of claim 13, wherein the autonomous imaging module
2 initiates communication with the at least one other instant messenger user.

1 15. The device of claim 13, wherein the device is a camera.

1 16. The device of claim 13, wherein the device is a camera compliant with
2 a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

1 17. The device of claim 13, wherein the device is a camera compliant with
2 a SIP for Instant Messaging Presence Leveraging Extension protocol (SIMPLE).

1 18. The device of claim 13, further comprising:
2 a predefined instructions module coupled to the autonomous IM application,
3 to instruct the device regarding interpreting instant messages received from the at least one
4 other instant messenger user.